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NEWS BRIEFS

Housing Authority chooses Zinnerford Smith as interim chief

NEWARK — The Newark Housing Authority Board of Commissioners has appointed Zinnerford Smith, their senior member, as the temporary replacement for Harold Lucas, Executive Director. Smith, who has been on the board for eight years, was chosen unanimously to serve as interim executive director.

Members say Smith was chosen because of his knowledge of the housing authority, his experience and the length of his tenure. Smith will not draw a salary for the position because state law says a member can not receive compensation for their services but is entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while working.

Court rejects civil rights appeal of police officers in Virginia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court has rejected an appeal by seven white Richmond, Va., police officers to revive their civil rights lawsuit claiming damage from alleged discrimination against their black and female colleagues.

The court, without comment, turned away arguments that the seven officers should be allowed to sue under a federal civil rights law banning on-the-job bias and that they are entitled to protection against being punished for filing their lawsuit.

Plainfield couple is arrested for abuse of foster children

ELIZABETH (AP) — Police arrested a Plainfield couple and charged them with abusing eight of the 11 foster and adopted children charged by handcuffing them together and striking them with household objects.

James Sylvester, 65, and his wife, Rena, 62, were charged recently with child cruelty. They were allowed to remain free but will have to appear in court to answer the charges. The children, who range in age from four to 12 years old, were removed from the couple's home in March, after one child told her school principal about the abuse, said Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan.

That prompted an investigation by prosecutors, Plainfield police and the state Division of Youth and Family Services.

Baptist ministers are divided on doctrine regarding marriage

ALEXANDRIA, La. (AP) — Even Baptist ministers cannot agree on the Southern Baptist Convention's determination that a woman should "submit graciously" to her husband. The statement is part of a passage adopted recently by SBC delegates meeting in Salt Lake City. It is the first change in 35 years to The Baptist Faith and Message, the denomination's declaration of beliefs.

While it is not binding, pastors and others are expected to ascribe to it. A survey by the Alexandria Daily Town Talk's OpinionLine indicated respondents were equally divided in the newspaper's telephone survey, 222 people agreed with the statement, 223 disagreed.

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Get the news that's relevant to you, your family and your community's progress

Law graduate success is high among minorities

NEWTOWN, PA. — New data from a six-year-long national study and bar exam passage rates show a high success rate for African Americans and other minorities who choose to pursue careers in the legal profession.

Within nine months of completing law school, an overwhelming majority of minority law graduates, 81 percent, successfully passed the bar exam enabling them to practice law. The landmark study, sponsored by the Law School Admission Council, the association that administers the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), tracked more than 27,000 students entering American law schools in 1991, making this study the

most comprehensive and in-depth research ever conducted of bar exam passage rates in the United States.

The study was designed in part to answer questions about minority access to the practice of law. The high level of minority student success revealed in this study lends credence to policies aimed at opening doors to minority students.

Seven years ago, when we started this study, some people were questioning whether minorities who were encouraged to enter law school were being sent on a fool's errand," said Henry Ramsey Jr., a retired California state judge and member of the LSAT committee that provided oversight for the

study. "There were all kinds of assertions, incidental anecdotes and wild guesses about the percentage of minority students who ultimately passed the bar, some as low as twenty or twenty-five percent. This is the first and only national bar passage study."

The eventual passage rate for all students in the study was 94.8 percent. Eventual pass rates by race or ethnic group were: Hispanic 89 percent, Mexican American 88 percent, Puerto Rican 80 percent, African American 78 percent, American Indian 82 percent, and white 97 percent. Copies of the published report will be available on June 30, 1998.

Farewell, community mourn James Byrd, Jr.

JASPER, Texas (AP) — Civil rights leaders and politicians called for an end to racial violence Saturday, June 13, as hundreds of mourners crowded into a sweltering, tiny church for the funeral of a black man who police say was brutally killed by white supremacists.

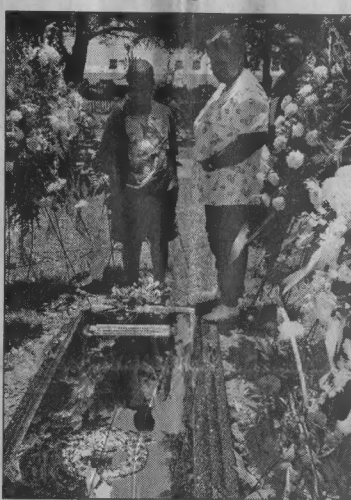
"Turn a crucifixion into a resurrection," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said. He suggested erecting a memorial to James Byrd Jr. as "a place for blacks and whites to rally, a tomb that says 'Choose redemption over retaliation.'"

But others called for a different reaction to Byrd's killing. After the funeral, about 15 "Black Panthers," carrying guns, marched through this town of 8,000 people, some 120 miles northeast of Houston.

"We are here to say that violence and racism and hatred of the white man in America is just as American as apple and cherry pie," Khalid Abdul Muhammad, former Nation of Islam minister, told reporters after the funeral. "We have come to say very simply by the power of our word that the black man and black woman must stand up and defend themselves at all costs."

Mourners, mostly black and dressed in their Sunday best, heard the funeral speeches by loudspeaker outdoors in broiling heat and humidity. Ambulances stood by in case people suffered heat exhaustion.

About 200 people were in Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, and about 300 more were outside in an overflow tent. About 500 others stood in an unshaded parking lot, with temperatures ranging in the upper 90s.



Mourners gather at James Byrd's grave site after the funeral.

Black leaders speak out against Texas killing

CINCINNATI (AP) — Kweisi Mfume, president of the NAACP, said the killing James Byrd Jr. should be prosecuted as a hate crime.

"How can something like this still happen?" Mfume, head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told a news conference.

Mfume said he called Attorney General Reno and asked that the suspects be prosecuted under the federal hate crimes law. People convicted of hate crimes motivated by bigotry are subject to longer prison sentences.

"These cowards should never be allowed to walk the streets again," Mfume said. "We must speak with one voice against hate crimes like this."

Ms. Reno said the FBI and U.S. attorney were working with Texas authorities to decide whether a state or federal prosecution would be better. If a racial motivation can be shown and an interference with federally protected rights proved, then the defendants could be charged under a federal civil rights law which carries the death penalty in cases where the victim is killed.

In Washington, black members of

Congress expressed outrage but little surprise at the brutal murder of Byrd and urged Americans to not let "deep and vicious racism in this country."

"It manifests itself at the street level in murder, but it also manifests itself at the boardroom in discrimination," said Rep. Alben Wynn (D-Md.).

The chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, flanked by the organization's members at a Capitol

news conference, denounced what she called a "firstborn of hate across this country."

Caucus members urged prosecution of the three defendants under the federal hate crimes statute. The FBI and U.S. attorney are working with local authorities to determine whether a state or federal prosecution would be better. Attorney General James Reno said at her weekly news conference.

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, said prosecutors should seek the death penalty. "I do not believe in selective prosecution," she said. "This is a heinous crime."

President Bill Clinton said recently that the people of Jasper, Texas must pull together and "demonstrate that an act of evil like this is not what this country is all about."

He would not comment on the FBI investigation into whether the three men charged with murder in the case could also be charged with violating Byrd's civil rights. "Because it is an ongoing investigation, I can't comment on the facts of the case," Clinton said. "But I can tell you this: We are determined that the investigation will be thorough, will be fair, and that the



NAACP president Kweisi Mfume.

Prison population racially imbalanced

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The war on drugs, using stereotypes to catch criminals and the prevalence of crime in poor, urban areas have led to racial disparities in prisons in Connecticut and throughout the nation, experts said as they gathered to search for solutions.

"We want to reduce racial and ethnic disparity in the prison system without having a negative impact on public safety," said Marc Maurer, assistant director of The Sentencing Project, a Washington-based think tank on sentencing and prisons.

As of 1995, Connecticut's prison population was 46 percent black and 27 percent Hispanic, while the state's population as a whole was about 82

percent white. The national average was 50 percent black and 16 percent Hispanic.

In Connecticut, the prison population has risen from 3,800 in 1980 to 16,000 presently.

What has risen, among blacks, are arrests for drug offenses. Between 1980 and 1995, the percentage of people incarcerated in state prisons around the country for drug offenses rose from six percent to 23 percent, or from 19,000 people to 225,000 people.

Maurer said the discretion that police have in choosing who to stop on highways and where to send patrols contributes to the disproportionate number of minorities in prison.

Police investigate copycat hate crimes

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (AP) — In a case similar to that of James Byrd, a black teen-ager said he was grabbed by three white youths who yelled racial slurs and dragged him alongside their moving vehicle. Burns Manning, 17, said he suffered a clawed eye and abrasions.

His clothes started tearing, his body started moving, he indicated to me that his head was about an inch from the wheel of the vehicle," the Rev. Johnny Scott said. "He thought he would be killed by the wheel running over him."

Scott, president of the East St. Louis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asked the FBI to join the investigation. The FBI would not comment last week.

Scott said the attack on Manning could have been inspired by the racial slurs and slaps, Texas.

Detective Sgt. Roger Barber said it was too early to tell if Manning was a victim of a copycat crime.

Manning said the other boys called

him over to the vehicle, grabbed him through an open window, pulled his shirt and dragged him until the cloth ripped and he fell near the back wheels.

"The whole time they were dragging me they were saying, 'igger' this and 'igger' that," Manning told the Belleville News-Democrat.

In Slidell, Louisiana, police are investigating the complaint of a black man who says three whites yelled racial slurs and dragged him beside their car in a manner similar to a killing in Texas.

Cornelius Weaver, 23, said he was walking home from a convenience store when three men in a passing car yelled racial slurs. The front and rear passengers then grabbed him by the arm and pulled him along for 2 1/2 blocks, Weaver told police.

Weaver, 23, suffered abrasions and bruises on his limbs and torso when he rolled away from the car, sheriff's spokesman David Hartman said. He tells a story that amounts to "a hate crime," Hartman said. "We're still investigating but we don't have much to work with."

Black professionals say discrimination common

NEW YORK (AP) — Most blacks in corporate America say discrimination remains common in their workplaces and they advise youngsters to become entrepreneurs, but remain proud about their own careers, according to a survey commissioned by Fortune magazine.

Fortune's July issue unveils the results of a nationwide poll of 750 professionals conducted April 20-May 11 that provides a "richly textured and sometimes contradictory portrait of attitudes."

Sixty-eight percent of the respondents said they are optimistic about their professional futures in America's big corporations and 54 percent expect promotions within five years, according to the survey conducted by the Joint Center for

Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C.

While 81 percent said discrimination in their jobs is common, 13 percent said it is rare, and six percent didn't know.

Asked if whites and blacks of equal training and experience were being paid equitably, 76 percent said "no" and 17 percent said "yes." Sixty-four percent didn't know.

Seventy-four percent advised that black youngsters pursue careers as entrepreneurs, while only 24 percent said they should come into the corporate world. Similarly, 68 percent of the respondents years to start their own business.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Rite-Aid begins urban revitalization project

Camp Hill, Pa. — Rite Aid announced in mid-1996 an investment of more than \$10 million to develop six new pharmacies in Newark. Mayor Sharpe James commended Rite Aid at the Grand Opening of a Clinton Avenue store, creating over 100 new jobs for local Newark residents.

The effort was part of Rite Aid's commitment to opening 37 new stores, 73 relocations and 17 remodeling projects within 85 communities in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

Chief Executive Officer Martin Grass announced a two-year, \$230 million development plan for economically depressed urban areas. The announcement was made in conjunction with the first meeting of the White House Business and Enterprise Roundtable on Community Empowerment. Convened by Vice President Al Gore, the Roundtable gathered executives from leading corporations to discuss national companies' commitment to economically challenged urban communities and neighborhoods. During the meeting, Rite Aid was recognized for its ongoing dedication to urban revitalization.

Downtown Newark gets boost with real estate purchases

NEWARK — Multi-millionaire Raymond Chambers is funding a new foundation called the New Newark Foundation, that will buy real estate near the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Thus far the foundation has purchased the old S. Klein department store and is in the process of trying to lease the old Holmes department store.

Chambers plans to turn the property into real estate that will help "create a 24-hour life on the streets." To

do that, Chambers has hired developer Tony Goldman, who is known for revitalizing real estate in South Miami Beach, Florida and in the SoHo section of New York.

To date, the foundation hasn't provided a great deal of information to Mayor Sharpe James' office or the Newark Economic Development Corporation. In a press-release statement, James said: "I have not received a formal proposal; it would be inappropriate to comment at the present time.

However, we welcome the organization's vision and assistance and are excited about their plans."

NIPAC has been credited for the revitalization of Newark's downtown area. Broad Street may be the site of a new major league baseball stadium. In addition, New Jersey Transit has plans to construct a one-mile light-rail trolley that will be linked between Penn and Broad Street stations. The trolley will make stops at the sports stadium and NIPAC.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

ATLANTA—The NAACP will hold its 89th annual convention in the Georgia World Congress Center from July 11th thru July 16th. The theme is "Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today." 410-358-8900.

PLAINFIELD—Anyone interested in the building trades should attend this free introductory discussion from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the United National Bank Community Education Center. 908-756-5000, ext. 2366.

PLAINFIELD—Taxpayers will be able to pay their taxes up to 8 p.m. through June 30. The taxpayers office is located on the 1st floor of City Hall. 908-753-3215.

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Make Your Own Greeting Cards" from 6 to 9 p.m. 201-714-2107.

JERSEY CITY—NJ State on the arts fellowship exhibition will be held at the Jersey City Museum. 201-547-4514.

KENILWORTH—The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center announces a bus trip to the Senior Art Show reception, leaving the center at 5 p.m. 908-753-3506.

NEW YORK—Black Women in Publishing presents Inequality seminar. The ABC's of getting work at 305 Seventh Ave. (Near 27th St.). 11th fl. from 5:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. 212-772-5951.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

PLAINFIELD—If your career plans include college, attend this informative session from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the United National Bank Community Education Center. 908-756-5000, ext. 2366.

EAST RUTHERFORD—Union County College sponsors "Evening at the Races" at the Meadowlands Race Track at 7:30 p.m. 908-708-7526.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Brunswick NAACP, Inc. branch 25th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at 6:30 p.m. 908-722-8535.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

PISCATAWAY—Circle Players host Community Theater Cruise to the Caribbean by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines through July 4th. For more info, call 732-968-7555.

MONTCLAIR—North NJ area hoopers are invited to bring their best shots and highest hops to the parking

Send events to: CN Community Calendar, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or FAX to: 908-753-1036

Dr. everett accepts 1998 leadership award



PLAINFIELD—Dr. Larry Levereit, Plainfield Public Schools Superintendent, accepts the 1998 Education Leadership Award for the school's innovative use of technology to promote family involvement in education. Presenting the award are John Fenwick (L), Director of the AT&T Learning Network, Dr. Robert Boese, Executive Director of New Jersey School Boards Association, and Carroll Miller, Co-founder and Vice President of Family Education Company. Levereit accepted the award at a June 3 ceremony at AT&T's headquarters in Basking Ridge, N.J.

Jessica Hill receives recognition from NHA



NEWARK—Joined by Newark Housing Authority (NHA) Commissioners Ida Clark (left) and Chairperson Doris McCray Crank (right), Jessica Hill, the NHA's 1998 Honorary Executive Director, proudly displays a proclamation recognizing her achievements and contributions to the city of Newark at a special ceremony held in her honor recently at the NHA's headquarters. Ms. Hill, who represents the NHA's eighth honorary executive director, received this designation for being selected one of the top three contestants in the annual Newark Citywide Senior Citizens' Living Legacy Fashion Extravaganza, cosponsored by the NHA, the City of Newark and various community-based organizations and local businesses. The program affords seniors the opportunity to gather and enjoy the camaraderie of their peers by showcasing their fashions in an atmosphere of friendly competition. In addition to the family and friends of Ms. Hill, Councilman George Branch, who conducted the swaying-in, and members of the Mayor's Seniors Commission also attended the program.

City News is glad to highlight our community people every week.
Send your photos and information to:
City News People, P.O. Box 1774,
Plainfield, N.J. 07060

Special olympic athletes showcase athletic ability



JERSEY CITY—Special Olympics athletes from throughout the state showcased their athletic ability in track & field events, tennis, table tennis, softball, power lifting, gymnastics, equestrian, bocce and aquatics at the New Jersey State Special Olympics Summer Games, held recently at College of New Jersey in Ewing. Between events, athletes strolled through the Olympic Village, made festive with a carnival run by hard-working volunteers. At the Quarterback Challenge booth, sponsored by Exxon, athletes enjoyed practicing their passing skills with a football. All athletes who tested their hurling skills received a prize as well as a free photo with the Exxon tiger. Exxon and its retailers throughout New Jersey are long-time sponsors of Special Olympics. Getting up close and personal with the Exxon tiger at the Special Olympics Summer Games at College of New Jersey are Special Olympics athletes from the John F. Kennedy School in Newark.

TechnAbility lab's capabilities demonstrated



JERSEY CITY—John Tarrant (standing center left) of Glen Rock and John Makovsky (standing center right) of Paterson, the secretary and vice president, respectively, of the John Victor Machuga Foundation, Inc., recently visited A. Harry Moore School's John Victor Machuga TechnAbility Lab, a facility, established and supported by grants from the Foundation, that provides computer technical assistance for disabled students. Richard Sentipal (left) of Shohola, Pennsylvania, a teacher and coordinator of the Lab, and A. Harry Moore High School students Greg Jones (seated left) and Mitchell Bethea (seated right) demonstrated some of the Lab's capabilities as Dennis Paparella, principal of the School, looked on. Named in honor of John Victor Machuga, the TechnAbility Lab is designed to accommodate a wide range of disabilities. Not pictured are three officers of the Foundation: Albert Dahab, president; Carl Roman, treasurer; and Dr. Bruce Waldman, trustee and executive director. New Jersey City University has administered A. Harry Moore School since 1982.

ATTENTION NEWARK PARENTS!

THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE

1998 Summer Food Program

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITES: JULY 6 - AUGUST 7, 1998

HIGH SCHOOL SITES: JULY 6 - AUGUST 14, 1998

OPEN TO ALL NEWARK CHILDREN!

ALL NEWARK CHILDREN, 18 YEARS OF AGE OR UNDER ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE, NUTRITIONALLY BALANCED MEALS.

BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED WEEKDAYS
9:00 - 9:30 A.M.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED WEEKDAYS
12:30 - 1:00 P.M.

The Summer Food Program is a federal program of the Food and Nutrition Services, United States Department of Agriculture. The same free meal will be provided in accordance with a menu approved by the state agency regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. For more information contact the Newark Public Schools, Office of Food Services at (973) 733-7170.

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AT HILLCREST VILLAGE APARTMENTS AND LEXINGTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS

On April 8, 1998, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey entered an order resolving a lawsuit brought by the United States Department of Justice against the owners, managers and rental agents of Hillcrest Village Apartments and Lexington Village Apartments in Clark, New Jersey. The lawsuit alleged that the defendants had discriminated against black persons who sought rental housing there. Under this order, you may be entitled to receive monetary relief if you asked about or applied for renting, or rented, an apartment at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments and:

- You were denied an opportunity to live there because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you or
- You were falsely told that no apartments were available because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you; or
- You were otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race or color in connection with your occupancy at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments or your attempt to rent a unit there.

If you believe you were discriminated against because of race or color at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments, or if you have any information about persons who may have been discriminated against there on the basis of race or color, please contact the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-896-7743. You may also write to:

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Housing and Civil Enforcement Section
P.O. Box 65998
Washington, D.C. 20035-5998

NOTE: You must call or write no later than ninety (90) days from August 8, 1998.

*SITES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Black music

The real 'Soul Music'

For us, it's Gospel Music Month.

While Black Music Month is celebrated during June, and the African American observance of Juneteenth is slowly gaining recognition and popularity, the City of Newark and the State of New Jersey have commemorated gospel's spiritually uplifting form of expression for almost 16 years.

Newark is a city that is particularly noted as nurturing gospel music talent. The "Golden Age of Gospel," which took place in the 1940's produced groups like the Drinkard Singers and the Coleman Brothers. These talents are as much a part of Newark's rich musical history as Melba Moore, James Moody and Rahsaan Roland Kirk. While groups like the Drinkards and the Colemans may not have gained lasting national recognition because they never took to secular houses to perform, they are part of the foundation of black music. Groups like the Motivations and the Brower Brothers continue the tradition of [gospel] group singing—and are proof that New Jersey still rules in portraying the spirit and energy of black music.

Dr. Albert Lewis, Jr., a Newark native and one who is considered the founding father of Gospel Music Month said that there is no question of keeping this music alive because, "Gospel music will be alive as long as God lives."

"The Spiritals" have been around the world, yet they have never left home. Now, you can pay good money to hear them sing in first-rate concert halls here and abroad. But nothing is more satisfying than to hear your own choir in your own church on Sunday morning.

A modern-day plague

By Marian Wright Edelman

On the fifth page of the fourth section of my morning newspaper the other day, a child's death from a dreadful disease was briefly noted. This disease is devastating our country as surely as the plague halved the population of Europe and Asia in the 14th century. Now, then, death is everywhere—in our streets, our homes, our institutions.

The disease is violence. It is a cancer growing in our country and it is killing our children.

Last month, for a couple of days we read on the front pages of our newspapers about a youth in Springfield, Oregon who killed a classmate and wounded 24 others at his high school. Before that, we saw such madness in Jonesboro, Georgia, in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, in Paducah, Kentucky, and in Pearl, Mississippi. But these are not isolated occurrences. Fourteen children are killed in America every week in gun violence. We must find a cure for this terrible disease.

One thing the Black Community Crisis Center for Children (BCCC) is doing is trying to connect black to caring adults: mentors who model and

reinforce positive behavior; pastors who lend an ear to a child; summer employers who teach new skills and reward hard work. The BCCC's Freedom Schools provide havens to help keep over 2,500 children and 300 college-age young adults from their engaged activities that nurture their minds, bodies, and spirits.

Reach out to a child who is not yours this summer. Be a mentor, a friend, a refuge for a child before he or she becomes another victim of the violence that permeates our society. Or so many children in America are now facing an unsupervised, idle summer. Parents work. There is a care crisis in our country. In the annual State of Children which took place on June 1 this year, parents, families, and those who care about children called for quality, affordable child care. One solution being considered in Congress is funding for an important program that works.

Do something about the cancer of violence before it kills any more of our children. And help give our children positive alternatives to the street with adult supervision during this summer vacation.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund.

Inside the Sing Sing

Dr. Manning Marable

In the United States today, there are over 1.7 million young men incarcerated in federal and state prisons, and local jails. About one-third of all prisoners are African American men. Roughly one-third of all young black men in their twenties are either in prison, jail, on probation, parole, or awaiting trial. We know these terrible statistics, but don't always think about the destructive human costs incurred by this generation of young black men within the prison-industrial complex and the racist criminal justice system.

Yet one really can't understand how an entire generation of our young men is being destroyed until you go inside a prison. And several days of the trip the day inside one of country's best known, and infamous prisons—Sing Sing.

I was the guest of the prison education program sponsored by the New York Theological Seminary. The "Masters' degree program involves about fifteen to twenty men each academic year, who complete their requirements for positions as counselors, teachers and chaplains' assistants in the New York prison system.

We walked slowly through the twists and turns of the old building. The chaplain strolled, turned, or asked me, "Would you like to see Cell Block B?" I had heard about Cell Block B. About fifteen years ago prisoners in that cell block had seized control for several days, protesting against inhumane conditions. The cell block was said to be one of the largest single prison units in the world.

We then walked through a series of double barred metal doors, separated by small interlocking security chambers. Walking through the final door, we came into a vast open space.

surrounded by thick concrete walls and ceiling. In the center of this huge room, almost filling up the open space, was a huge steel cage, five stories high. Each story or tier was composed of 64 separate prison cells. Prisoners were separated by small barred walkways and narrow stairwells. An equal number of cells stood behind this steel wall of cages.

Each cell was a tiny confined space, with barely enough room for a prisoner's toilet, sink and bed. Prisoners were not allowed to place any clothing or items covering the front of their cells, except when using their toilets. For me, there was an overwhelming sense of dehumanization and social control.

Yet somehow hope does survive. The brothers I spoke with that day, as well as others who have taken part in the program, reflect an incredible courage and self-awareness. Most of them were in their thirties or forties, and had been incarcerated for ten to twenty-five years.

A brother, 47 years old, had been in Sing Sing for a quarter century. Over the years he had become one of the prison's outstanding spiritual leaders, and a recipient of both the BA and MA degrees. All of these black men had overcome difficulties and mistakes they had made, and with great moral energy and personal strength they had turned their lives around. Some of them reminded me of the courage and commitment of Malcolm X, another prisoner who had started life "Detroit Red," but who transformed himself into one of our greatest political and ethical leaders.

Dr. Manning Marable is Director, Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University.

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From the Rainbow/PUSH coalition newsletter

Sunday June 7, James Byrd, Jr.—49 year old father of three—was abducted by three white men, beaten until he was unconscious, chained to the back of a pickup truck, and dragged three miles through his own neighborhood to his death. If this is not a violation of a human being's civil rights, nothing is! The full weight of federal law should be brought to bear on these three terrorists.

Reverend Jesse Jackson called Mr. Byrd's killing perhaps the most heinous race crime since the Emmett Till lynching in Mississippi nearly fifty years ago. The attack was random. It was not planned. Which is worse than had it been planned because it means that any African American could have been victimized. James Byrd was killed for no reason other than the color of his skin.

Byrd lynching not an isolated hate crime

Most attention has focused on Jasper this week, and for good reason. But as reprehensible, inconceivable, shocking and brutal as this act is, it is not an isolated incident. It is the most recent.

As the Houston Chronicle reported this week, more than 5300 "hate crimes" were reported to the Justice Department last year. James Byrd will only become a nameless, faceless, family-less statistic if we let this week's horror define his death in vain. We must rally around him and his family and defy the terrorists.

Black and white find unity in tragedy

The most encouraging aspect of the

the collective strength of black males

By Kai A. Niyons

Staff Writer

In these last days and times, evil is being manifested on all levels. James Byrd's savage lynching in Jasper, Texas has brought the truth to the light about "the hate" in this. The question we ask: "How could a human being do this to another human being?" Unfortunately, many are not human beings but existing on an animal or beast-like level.

The book, *Might is Right or Survival of the Fittest* by Ragnar Redbeard explains winners to the fact that some of them exist on an animal level. "So long as we remain animals, we shall be dominated by animal wants, and animal passions and animal rivalries," pp. 90.

While some are discussing "race relations," we are being outside nature and human levels. "In the collective white psyche, Black males represent the greatest threat to white genetic survival." In the white supremacy, racism, colonialism or subordination, Black males must be destroyed in significant numbers—just as they were in the earlier days when there were widespread open wars between tribes of Black males," pp. 91 in *Isis Papers*.

Black males are being destroyed by Black males. Chris Weisling.

Dr. Charles L. McClure, Jr. Klux Klan, and other white organizations are openly about "white supremacy domination and oppression of all non-white people," pp. 92 in *Isis Papers*, essential for global white genetic survival.

"The prevention of white genetic annihilation is pursued through all means, including chemical and biological warfare," pp. 93 in *Isis Papers*.

Many people had and still have problems with the Teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, which of

Campaign finance reform needs direction

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Congress is scheduled to begin the long-postponed debate on campaign finance reform legislation. At least 90 bills to change the campaign finance system have been introduced in the House during the 105th Congress, but so far, none have passed.

Attempts at reform — both good faith efforts and phony ones — tend to focus on limiting expenditures and restricting contributions. The average citizen understandably wants to "curb the special interests" — the PACs and lobbyists who pour millions into the campaign coffers of both parties.

response to James Byrd's murder is the white church has rallied its supporters behind the Byrd family. Instead of the side of town mourning while the other side of town is observing, whites (Apartheid led by their ministers) have flocked out to black — offering their arger church for the funeral services.

Beyond color. Beyond culture. There is character.

White House and Justice Department responding

On Thursday, President Clinton arranged for President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno to speak with James Byrd's parents. Both the President and the Attorney General assured the family that top officials from the Civil Rights Division has already been dispatched to Jasper, TX to investigate this matter fully to find the depth and breadth of racist, anti-semitic, militia groups in East Texas.

Rodman to pay for Byrd Funeral

After speaking with Reverend Jackson and the Byrd family, Chicago Bulls star and Texas native Dennis Rodman pledged to cover the expenses of James Byrd's funeral.

At a time of crisis, Rodman's act of generosity is a potent example for professional athletes and all people of means to make a difference when they are needed most.

Let the moral call to leave no one behind.

Fund to be established for James Byrd's children

Plans are under way to build a fund that would assist James Byrd's children.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, and James Byrd's college tuition, room board and various life expenses.

reveled that the white man is the devil regardless to the place or time. This is backed by their actions since their time on the Planet, Earth. This is not "hate speech." This knowledge is given so that people of color can understand the nature of Caucasian so that they can know how to deal with them and to know what they are capable of so we do not become victims of their potential development. Having a knowledge of them have certainly contributed to better relations with them from my life's experience. I don't "hate" Caucasians because they come from us, they are the same as we are. It is us, our lower selves. They cannot help it, they are they are.

When the force of *Might is Right* is identified, "Man the Conqueror, the Ideal animal, a destructive warrior, not a crucified carpenter." The beginning of this knowledge is given so that people of color can understand the nature of Caucasian so that they can know how to deal with them and to know what they are capable of so we do not become victims of their potential development. Having a knowledge of them have certainly contributed to better relations with them from my life's experience. I don't "hate" Caucasians because they come from us, they are the same as we are. It is us, our lower selves. They cannot help it, they are they are.

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Political Analysis

FIELD ASSIGNMENT

Music and Political Expression

By Walter Fields

Rarely do folks immersed in politics acknowledge the impact and influence of music on social movements. Since June is Black Music Month, I felt it appropriate to recall how those who have shaped our ongoing struggle for justice and equality. Given the long tradition of music in the black community, it would be irresponsible to forego an opportunity to reflect upon its power upon popular culture.

My early interest in politics was shaped by the turbulence of the 1960's. Images of war torn Southeast Asia, urban unrest and violence in Civil Rights South were framed by stirring social messages delivered by rhythmic poets. I can still recall to this day the address I felt when I first heard a recording of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come." In spite of my youth—I was only in grammar school—I understood the gravity and emotions that Cooke was conveying with his velvet voice. The words of that song made sense juxtaposed against the televised images of civil rights workers being beaten by angry white mobs in the south. It also made sense to my grandmothers, two strong black women, and my mother who had endured in their daily struggles. There was strength in those lyrics and the sign of the times. It really would someday reflect the optimism expressed in that song.

Sam Cooke was not alone in using music to define the struggles of the day. Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions reflected growing black pride when they released "We're a Village." The upbeat, positive mood of the song reflected the resiliency of a community that had withstood the devastation of Watts, Detroit and Newark. To declare victory in 1967 in the face of poverty, and the death of Malcolm, could have been taken as a sign of defeat. Instead, it was recognition that the collective strength of the community could overcome adversity. The uplifting melody of Mayfield's tune was defiant:

no more tears will we cry
'cause we're finally dried our

The good soldier

By Askin Muhammad

General Sami Abacha's untimely death in Nigeria leaves a great void, not only in his native land, but in all of West Africa, indeed, throughout continental Africa.

Nigeria, with the largest population in Africa—115 million people, one of every five Africans is a Nigerian. Nigeria is a result of oil exports, and the largest standing army on the continent, was a stabilizing force. In these times of trouble, General Abacha's leadership in Africa and worked tirelessly to hold his country together. Even those who disagree with him must acknowledge his role in maintaining the unity of Nigeria.

"We found him to be a great listener and he showed great interest in our opinions," said Don Lewis, President of the National Newspapers Publishers Association, hardly the kind of a man to make many labeled a "dictator." Mr. Lewis met with General Abacha on many occasions as the leader of delegations of Black publishers and observers.

If Nigeria's example, with General Abacha's leadership in the crisis in Liberia is an example—while he helped maintain stability long enough for national elections and the installation of a civilian government which has begun the re-unification and the reconstruction process after seven years of civil war—then Nigeria may see peace and stability at the end of its own transition process.

It was U.S. President George Bush, His Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, and his Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman and General Colin Powell conferred on General Abacha the Legion of Merit, degree of commander, known as the Distinguished Service Star, the highest U.S. military honor. In that 1991 commendation, Secretary Cheney said of General

eyes and we're movin' on up... 'cause everybody knows the truth just keep on pushing... like your leaders tell you to

James Brown came along and dramatically altered the manner in which we viewed ourselves and America viewed us. "Say It Loud...I'm Black and I'm Proud!" became the rallying cry for a generation that refused to be defined by others. Brown's proclamation was the musical complement to Stokely Carmichael's declaration of Black Power. Black was finally in season...Black Panthers...Black Muslims...Black Power. Shedding our "negro" and "Colored" identity was a powerful political statement. James Brown gave legitimacy to a community's effort to move beyond our past and through the twenty-century. Black was an empowering concept. Negative connotations were swept aside by our embracing of the one distinguishing characteristic that caused our ancestors so much pain upon their arrival. The so-called "Negro" was dead.

My personal consciousness was also shaped by the spoken word. The radically raw expressions of The Last Poets, the Black Panthers, and others to today's hip-hop artists, challenged my narrow view of American society. My exposure to these urban poets made me through the twenty-century things who "educated" me on the basketball court. Music was always present in my neighborhood parts and the militancy of the day. It reverberated through someone's speakers.

The point to be made is that there is a voice, a voice to make a difference. We are missing today in the collective voices of artists who, through their words, have defined themselves in the larger struggle. Not even most hip-hop artists who profess to "keep it real" demonstrate a political consciousness, like the Chicagoans of Public Enemy, Rakim and KRS1, raise their voices against injustice. We need more.

Abacha", in his personal efforts during a crisis in Liberia and direct support of the Economic Community Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) and the United Nations, and the African States (ECOWAS) operations, ensured the humanitarian treatment of both civilian and military forces who bought into conflict in rapid conclusion and established law and order during a period of total anarchy.

Nigeria's example, with General Abacha's leadership in the crisis in neighboring Sierra Leone is an example—where he helped restore a civilian elected president to power, after a coup by a junior army officer—when Nigeria must certainly lead in restoring its own civilian governing authority. We, and all of the true friends of Africa and Nigeria sincerely hope that Nigeria's leadership will continue to lead the transition to civilian rule with minimum delay.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to General Abacha's Widow Mrs. Maryam Abacha. Hers is an especially great loss, because less than two years ago, she also lost her son Ibrahim, who died in a plane crash.

And while General Abacha took forces and resources to the military field of state, like so many soldiers before him or in many land have reminded us, he never relinquished his citizenship and restored to his country, because he wore a military uniform for the last 36 years. We agree with Secretary Cheney, who also said of him: "During the Liberia operation, his personal sensitivity to the plight of all individuals in need was exemplary of his concern for his own soldiers and sailors as well as those of his fellow Africans."

Askin Muhammad is a journalist based in Washington, D.C.

City News

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

CRANFORD—Management Skills for Supervisors will be presented at the Union County College through August 12, 908-709-7000.

NEWARK—Air Services Development Office (ASDO) presents a seminar designed to help ASDO vendors increase sales and develop purchasing opportunities at Newark International Airport. Seminar held from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Newark Airport. For more info, call 973-991-4278.

MORRISTOWN—The Trustees and supporters of New Jobs will meet from 8-9 p.m. at Allied Signal to honor outstanding private legislators of Morris County. For more info, call 908-393-7707.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

PERTH AMBOY—A free SBA Community Assistance Seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Portuguese Manor Restaurant. To register, call 973-645-2434.

NEW YORK—How to Turn Job Interviews into Job Offers. The course runs through July 6, every Monday from 6:10-8:10 p.m. For more information, call 212-691-7070.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

JAMESBURG—A roundtable discussion featuring State Treasurer James Dieffenauer asks "What Does the State Plan To Do With The Budget Surplus?" Held at the Forsgate Country Club, the discussion will take place from 8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information, call 609-869-7888.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

NEWARK—NJN Public Television presents "Employment New Jersey" at 7 p.m. Shows are rebroadcast Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

NEW YORK—A Dyson College of Arts and Sciences Master of Science in Publishing graduate admission information session at the New York Midtown Center. Session held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For more info, call 212-346-1531.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

UNION—Sign up for several training seminars at Union County Economic Development Corp. Seminars include: Central Contractor Registration, CALS & Integrated Manufacturing and Benchmarking. For more information, call 908-827-1166.

Black businesses plan to derail NationsBank and BankAmerica merger

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A coalition of black business groups in Florida has launched a campaign to derail the planned merger of NationsBank with BankAmerica.

The loosely-knit group of about 20 black business associations said NationsBank reneged on promises to increase lending to minorities in Florida. The group, known as the Coalition, made its complaints known in a letter to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and asked that a comment period on the deal be extended 30 days so that hearings can be held in Florida.

The Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond has oversight authority in the

money. As a result, the corporations were unable to secure matching funds from the state, said Jeff Lett, president of Central Florida company.

Since the Barnett deal was approved, NationsBank has lost its enthusiasm for supporting minority lending, said Gregory Hobbs, executive director of the Florida Black Business Investment Board. NationsBank spokeswoman Jennifer Franz said the company would not comment on the Coalition's claims.

Stella Adams, the executive director of the N.C. Fair Housing Center and a member of the executive committee of the Community Reinvestment Association

of North Carolina, remains unbothered by her determination to protest the merger of NationsBank Corp. and BankAmerica Corp. And that means she remains on a hunger strike. The 39-year-old activist has lost 22 pounds since she began restricting herself to orange juice, VB beverages and water May 26.

The \$62.5 billion merger creates the nation's first coast-to-coast bank, the largest in terms of total branches and the second-largest in terms of total assets. And that concerns Adams. "This merger is about more than increased credit and ATM transaction fees," she said. "This merger is about the economic health of our state and our nation."

Stella Adams, the executive director of the N.C. Fair Housing Center and a member of the executive committee of the Community Reinvestment Association

Federal and postal job scams

You don't have to pay for information about job vacancies with the U.S. Government or U.S. Postal Service. But scam artists are victimizing many Americans by selling information about federal job opportunities. These scam artists advertise in the classified sections of newspapers and offer—for a fee—to help job seekers find and apply for federal jobs. Some fraudulent companies even try to confuse consumers by using names like the "U.S. Agency for Career Advancement," or the "Postal Employment Service," which sound like federal agencies.

Scam artists may file about the availability of federal job openings in your area. For example, the Postal Service has few vacancies for current positions. For many of the entry jobs you must take a written examination first. Test 470. Postal Service hiring takes place through 85 district offices at the local level. If a private party tells you that postal jobs are available, check with the Postal Service to determine if hiring is taking place and if the exam is required for eligibility. Because of the high volume of applicants taking the test, it is only offered every few years in any given district.

Information about U.S. government jobs is available free. Federal agencies and the U.S. Postal Service never charge applicants for information. If an applicant will be hired, it positions require a competitive examination—and many do not—hiring agencies typically offer sample questions to consumers who sign up for the exam.

The Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management say certain techniques are tip-offs to federal and postal job rip-offs.

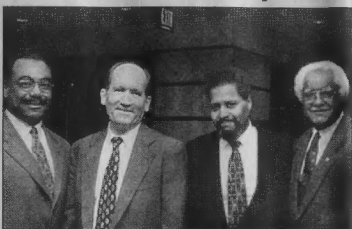
Classified ads or oral sales pitches that imply an affiliation with the federal government, guarantee high test scores or jobs, or state that "no experience is necessary." Ads that offer information about "hidden" or unadvertised federal jobs.

Ads that refer to a toll-free phone number. Often, in these cases, an operator encourages you to buy a "valuable" booklet containing job listings, practice test questions, and tips for entrance exams.

Toll-free numbers that direct you to other pay-per-call numbers for more information. Under federal law, any solicitation for pay-per-call numbers must contain full disclosures about cost.

If you have concerns about a company's advertisement for employment services, contact the Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 202-FTC-HELP (382-4357).

Myths about the African-American economy



SOMERS, N.Y.—Ken Smikle, president, Target Market News, second from right, urged members and supporters of the Pepsi-Cola Black Employees Association to be alert to myths that sometimes accompany discussions of the African-American economy. Shown with Smikle, from left to right, are: Joe Wilson, President, Integrated Packaging Corporation, Craig Weatherup, Chairman and CEO, Pepsi-Cola Company and Sam Hall, retired manager of public relations, Pepsi-Cola company. Smikle said industry statistics show African Americans will spend more than 2.5 percent per capita on super highway-related goods and services than their counterparts by the year 2000.

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Getting financially prepared for retirement

Dale G. Caldwell



Retirement planning is usually defined as "managing your financial resources in such a way to have enough savings at retirement to retire in comfort." Unfortunately, there are four retirement planning mistakes that most people make.

Mistake #1: Not planning for retirement. Most people don't think that they have to plan for retirement. They assume that their company pension (if they have one) or Social Security will ensure that they have enough money to retire comfortably. If you get nothing else from this article, remember this: You will not retire in comfort unless you win the lottery or develop a plan to retire in comfort. You must begin to develop a retirement plan today.

Mistake #2: Not starting to save for retirement soon enough. Ideally, you should begin to save for retirement in your early 20's. Most people do not understand the significance of investing early. The sooner that you invest the more your money grows. For example if a person who is 40 years old invests \$50 a month in an investment that provides a 15 percent return this person would have approximately \$128,000 at age 65. However, if a person who is 25 years old invests \$50 a month in an investment that provides a 15 percent return this person would have approximately \$1,067,000 at age 65. The sooner that you let your money compound the faster it will accumulate. So begin to invest early!

Mistake #3: Not knowing how much money you will need for retirement. Unfortunately, most people have no idea what income they would need to retire in comfort.

Most people expect their Social Security benefits to be larger than they are. In addition, most people think that the rate of inflation will have on their money. Consequently, even people who plan for retirement are frequently struggling financially during retirement. To accurately estimate how much money you will need at retirement call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 to find out how much money you can expect at retirement. Ask for a copy of the Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (PEBES-form SSA-7004).

Mistake #4: Not taking advantage of retirement investment vehicles. As I have mentioned in previous articles, it is imperative that you take advantage of 401(k) plans and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). These investment vehicles are excellent ways to defer taxes until retirement (you do not have to pay taxes on the interest that you receive in these vehicles until you withdraw money from them).

Now that you know the major retirement planning mistakes, you can begin to develop your personal retirement plan. Figure out how much income you need to retire. The figure out how much money you will need if you take inflation into account. If you would like help you develop a personal retirement plan please call me at (212) 439-4649.

Dale Caldwell is the National Director of Recruiting for the Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group.

Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts*, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FINO/SVP Research Publications Group

great ways to reach the African-American Business & Professional Community



Minority Business Journal

The *Minority Business Journal* is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. *MBJ* regularly features the accomplishments of minority and women businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses. *MBJ* offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. *MBJ* provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority communities.

Minority Business-to-Business Directory

The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The *Directory* networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The *Directory* features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and woman-owned businesses and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.



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IRVINGTON:
1400 Irving Avenue
1200 Springfield Avenue
1600 Ridgewood Avenue
LIVINGSTON:
480 South Livingston Avenue
271 East Livingston Road
LONG BRANCH:
100 Broadway

MADISON:
15 Main Street
MILLBURN:
100 Main Street
NAVESINK:
Highway 34 and Valley Road
PLAINFIELD:
100 Livingston Avenue
ROXBURY TWP.:
100 Main Street
SCOTCH PLAINS:
207 Park Avenue

SPRINGFIELD:
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SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS:
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UNION:
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Local Briefs

First black school lauded for achievements

NEWARK—Recently, Assemblyman William Payne visited United Academy School, noted as the first African American school in Newark, to recognize its school leadership and the civic pride of its students.

The Assemblyman highlighted some of the school's noteworthy programs including its Foster Grandparent Program, a "Before and After" school care program and a summer day camp. Particularly, he recognized the students in the second grade class for their school projects entitled "New Jersey schools." The second grade students have spent the entire year learning details and facts about New Jersey, including state and municipal elected officials. During their projects, the students were unable to identify a state song, so they began to write a song to complete their project. The song was performed during the assembly. "During a time when criminalizing images of our youth have become commonplace, it is necessary and fitting that we counter this negativity by praising the exemplary efforts of our children," said Payne.

New Hubbard Principal appointed

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Board of Education appointed Mrs. Sandra Harrison as the new principal of Hubbard Middle School at a recent board meeting. "I believe Mrs. Harrison's experience as an elementary teacher, high school guidance counselor and director of guidance provide her with valuable insights to take leadership role and enable students and their parents to successfully make the transition from elementary to middle school," said Plainfield School Superintendent Larry Leverett.

New school board members elected

TRENTON—Charles V. Reilly of Essex County was elected as president of the New Jersey school boards through the year 2000. An attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, he succeeds Plainfield Board of Education Councilman M. Womack.

Other officers elected were Glenn Ewan of Maurice River Township, vice president for county activities; Eileen D. Ford of the Salem County Vocational-Technical school district, vice president for finance; and Patti J. Pawling of Barrington, vice president for legislation/resolutions.

Approximately 170 delegates from all 21 counties attended the meeting in Franklin township.

UPS helps Habitat make a home

PATERSON—Paterson Habitat for Humanity recently received a check for \$50,000 from the employees of United Parcel Service's Metro Jersey District. Thanks to a grant from the UPS Foundation, a new home will be built in the community.

The presentation was made in conjunction with Paterson Habitat for Humanity special project: The House the Congress Built. This program will partner Habitat International, the U.S. House of Representatives and the national Partners in Homeownership. The goal of this project is to build an affordable home with a low income family in all 435 congressional districts.

Plainfield considers refinancing school debt

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Board of Education considered a plan at a recent board meeting to refinance the school referendum bond approved by voters in 1966. The refinancing plan could mean savings of more than \$1 million to the school district.

Under the proposed plan, the school district will apply to the local Finance Board for approval to refund the bonds. The state allows school districts to refund if at least a percent savings can be realized. Under current rates, Plainfield meets this requirement. The district will refinance the bonds that will mature in 2009 to 2026.

"The money that the district realizes from the refunding will be used to reduce the district's debt service, the amount of money the district must provide to repay the \$34 million loan," said Gary Orsogna, board secretary and school business administrator.

Mingo recognizes Plainfield schools

PLAINFIELD—Union County Freeholder Lewis Mingo, Jr., visited with Plainfield educators recently to praise honors received by the school system.

"The County Freeholders join in praising the Board of Education for the award received from Brown University. It is noteworthy that this Ivy League University praised Plainfield as one of only 175 school districts nationally for their efforts in involving the public in education policy," Freeholder Mingo said.

Freeholder Mingo, a Plainfield resident, called the honor which described Plainfield as a trend setter in using community involvement as "another example of progress being made in Plainfield to improve the educational opportunities for our students."

Freeholder Mingo also presented County resolutions to high school instructors Kevin Skelly and George Stockman for their activities to promote ROTC training in the community.

"Major Skelly and Master Sgt. George Stockman motivate 130 students in the need for community service and potential aviation careers. Their training won acclaim for these two of the instructors in the nation for their successful ROTC program at Plainfield High School."

The Freeholder also presented a resolution to Plainfield High School junior Aaron Morton, congratulating him for winning the Regional District Wrestling Match. Morton earned one of the highest individual honors as a wrestler can achieve, winning the Region Three 171-pound title with a technical fall victory. This was the first region crown for Plainfield since 1965.

"We don't take the time to recognize the good work done by our students. We need to give them recognition and praise for their achievements both academic and athletic," Freeholder Mingo said.

Shabazz Bull Dogs get new stadium

NEWARK—The Bull Dogs had reason to cheer recently when the District Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools and the Mayor of Newark unveiled a sign heralding the future home of the Malcolm X Shabazz High School championship football team. It is the first athletic facility constructed by the school district since Untermann Field in 1934.

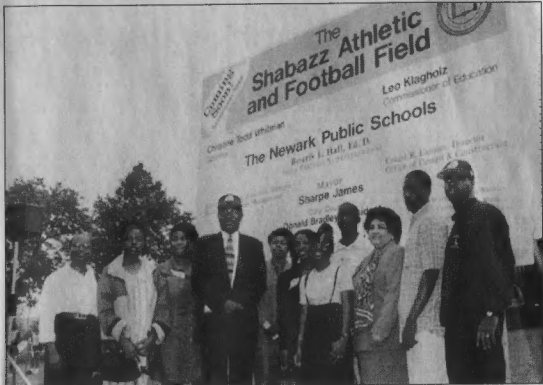
The Shabazz Athletic and Football Field will be about 12 acres in size. It will feature a state-of-the-art athletic field and stadium with seating for 3,500 spectators, as well as a football and baseball field, running track lanes, a field house with locker facilities and light-

ing for night games. The school has an enrollment of approximately 1,000 students.

"Newark students deserve the best facilities for learning and for athletic competition," said District Superintendent Beverly Hall. "Our ability to build this complex is a testament to the importance of a productive partnership between city and school officials on behalf of the Newark students."

"For far too long, Shabazz students have been without a home field on which to play varsity sports," said Mayor Sharpe James.

"The city administration is joining with the Newark Public Schools in making good on a



Mayor Sharpe James, third from left, and Dr. Beverly Hall, Newark's state appointed school superintendent, third from right, are flanked by Malcolm X Shabazz High School students and teachers during the unveiling of a sign announcing the pending groundbreaking of the Shabazz Athletic and Football Field. Shabazz High School principal Mary Bennett is to the Mayor's left. The Mayor, Dr. Hall and Mrs. Bennett addressed the student body, which gathered at the site.

College gets renamed



JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College was granted university designation and renamed New Jersey City University at a recent meeting of the New Jersey commission on Higher Education. More than 100 NJCU faculty, staff, and students attended the Commission meeting that was held at Seton Hall University in South Orange. Gathered with the University's new logo were, from right, John Moore of Teaneck, chair of the NJCU Board of Trustees; Dr. William J. Maxwell of Teaneck, president emeritus of the University; State Senator Bernard F. Kenny, Jr.; Michelle, a NJCU student trustee; and Jersey City Councilwoman Mary Donnelly. The name change took effect immediately.

THE 2ND ANNUAL GEORGE "GEE-GEE" BROWN



George "Gee-Gee" Brown

MEMORIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT JULY 17 - JULY 19, 1998

Helping your Community Can Mean Helping Yourself



Jabbar Jones

Join Jabbar Jones & other celebrity athletes in the 2nd memorial tournament for the late George "Gee-Gee" Brown who was gunned down in 1988 by a stray bullet during a basketball game.

This is not only a tournament for adults, but children will be involved as well. Loads of prizes and CDs will be given away to the youth. Among the prizes will be two basketball camp scholarships to Rider University and Rutgers University.

The games will be held at Madison Avenue Playground located at Madison and W. 2nd St. in Plainfield (adjacent to McDonald's).

Game Time

Friday, July 17 at 5 p.m.
Saturday, July 18 at 12 p.m.
Sunday, July 19 at 12 p.m.

Vendors are welcome and for more information, contact: Jabbar Jones, Tournament Coordinator at 908-233-1446 or 908-233-0245.

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New Jersey & You
Perfect Together



Television offers unrealistic depiction of family, work life

By Lynn Elber
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In sharp contrast to American life, which depicts a fantasy world in which work and family rarely clash, child care is a breeze and few people are over 50, according to a new study.

Analysis of more than 600 prime-time series and TV movies on the six broadcast networks found other reality gaps, including a lack of working mothers and fewer parents and more men on television than in the U.S. population.

The study by the National Partnership for Women & Families, a nonprofit organization formerly known as the Women's Legal Defense Fund, was released in Washington, D.C.

"The conflicts and compromises that shape so many Americans' lives in their roles as parents, spouses, daughters, sons and wage-earners simply aren't reflected on TV when men or women," Judith L. Lichtman, the group's president, said in a statement.

While acknowledging that television's goal is to entertain, Lichtman said it could do more.

"Showing how families cope with their own work-family demands, large and small, lets viewers know they are not alone in their struggles and can offer them hope for solutions," she said.

According to the study, most shows focus on either the workplace or the home, without much crossover between the two. Only 13 out of 150

series episodes or TV movies showed a character dealing with job vs. family stress of any kind.

Other findings from the study directed by Katharine E. Heinze-Knowles, a University of Washington professor:

—Thirty-four percent of TV mothers work for pay, compared to 67 percent of American mothers.

Only 15 percent of 820 adult TV characters were parents of minor children, compared to 32 percent of the U.S. population. Child care was shown as an issue for less than half of the TV parents with school-age offspring.

—A scan of 26 of the 820 adult TV characters had responsibility for an adult relative, and only 12 of them cared for someone 65 or older. By comparison, one in four U.S. workers had elder-care responsibilities in the past year.

—More than three in five adult TV characters, or 62 percent, are men, while 49 percent of Americans are male.

—The work women do on television fails to match what do in the real world. There were proportionally fewer female executives, teachers and technicians on TV, but more doctors and police officers than in fact.

—Forty-one percent of adult TV characters are over 50, compared to 38 percent of the U.S. population.

The last finding is unsurprising, given the increasing effort by broadcasters to air young shows that attract the young viewers favored by advertisers.

Some shows do recognize the

struggle Americans face in balancing the demands of work and family, the study found. On the sitcom "Malcolm & Eddie," for example, a single mother showed in on a business trip arranged with her cousin to baby-sit.

But on the police drama "Homicide: Life on the Street," a detective attends a child custody hearing without apparently having to arrange for the time off from his job.

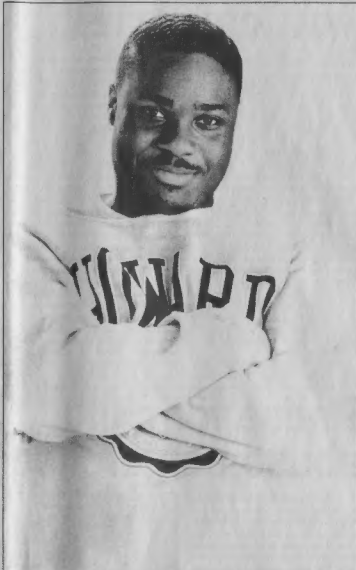
When work and family conflict occur on TV, the problems tend to be easily resolved and rarely require employee involvement. Characters show taking time off for personal problems encountered no resistance from their bosses, the study said.

In real life, according to the National Partnership, 34 percent of workers find it difficult to get time off during the day to deal with personal or family matters.

"These are just overwhelming concerns of people," agreed Stephanie Conitz, author of "The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families." Family-work conflicts are reported by around 80 percent of men and women, she said.

She suggested that TV executives, better able to afford nannies or other caregivers, might have been removed from the problems faced by many other Americans.

The National Partnership study was to be released at the group's annual lunch on Tuesday honoring actress host Rosie O'Donnell and People magazine president Ann Moore.



Shows like "Malcolm and Eddie," starring Malcolm Jamal-Warner, reflect the struggle Americans face in balancing work and family.

Healing the father-son split

By Avonile Brown
An NNPA Correspondent

There are two many instances where the central male figure is absent in the family. But there is a way to mend broken father/child relationships and develop new positive possibilities.

Inner Visions World Wide Network is spearheading a special national campaign focused on the relationship between fathers and sons. The Silver Spring, Md. organization, founded by author Iyanla Vanzant in 1993, hopes to redefine this relationship and in the process not only create wholesome families, but healthy communities.

"On a very basic level our whole attitude toward men has been that we have to accommodate the positive. However, when you look at the issue of men, generally they are cast as the aggressor of what they are not doing; they are not in the home, they not paying alimony, they not taking care of their children, they're dogs," said Adeyemi Bandle, the campaign's coordinator and the father of six boys and one girl. One motivation for this campaign he highlighted was a statement by the late Dr. Betty Shabazz who said "find the good and praise it."

The campaign titled, "Fathers and Sons: A Celebration and Healing Through Reconciliation" will run through October 16, the third anniversary of the Million Man March. This campaign can introduce into the lives of our fathers and sons to process the quality of their relationship. Where positive exists, praise it. Where there is a slew of them) they should be celebrated. And where they do not exist, time and resources should be made available to reconcile any difficulties.

"This is not intended to be an explosive event, it's an explosive one. It is really designed to go within it; it's about one and one connection," he said.

The Million Man March has been linked with one of the most explosive events in history, the Million Man March. However, Bandle explained that making this connection held no contradiction to the Center's mandate for intimate reflections.

The Million Man March was one of the first examples of the willingness of men to address issues that impact upon their spirit. It was about African-American men coming to grips with the challenges that they face in their own communities, their families and within themselves. This was about empowering men."

Bandle also explained that fathers are not to be denied the need for addressing the father-daughter relationship. We are going to look into growing into that, but if we want where the greatest challenges exist we'll see that fathers influence new and becoming fathers. We model what we see and how we are raised as sons, is how we end up raising our sons." The campaign, he said, is designed to break the negative cycle and reinforce positive examples and help along the healing process and reconciliation between fathers and sons.

Inner Visions Worldwide Network is a clearing house for proactive activities surrounding fathers and sons nationwide. If you need resources to help you celebrate with this renewed focus, call 301-608-8750.

Single mothers: Advice and wisdom for the African-American single mother

By Eric Duggans
St. Petersburg Times

ST PETERSBURG, Fla.—Since splitting with her son Winston's father more than eight years ago, Kelly Williams has provided many life lessons for her son as that most misunderstood modern-day phenomenon: the single mother.

She's not alone.

According to projected Census figures for 1996, America has 9.8 million single-parent families headed by mothers, with about a third of them run by black women. In 1995, 56 percent of all black children were raised by one parent, compared with 33 percent for Hispanics and 21 percent for white kids.

Despite the numbers, Williams, a health reporter for WTSP in St. Petersburg, Florida, still couldn't find a book totally dedicated to helping black women cope with the problems of single motherhood.

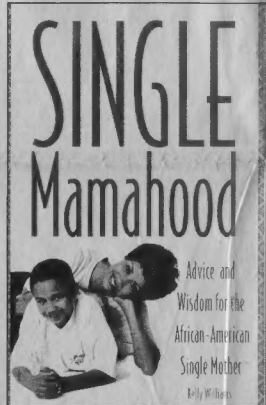
So she wrote her own.

Called Single Mamahood: Advice and Wisdom for the African-American Single Mother, Williams' 189-page treatise tackles just about everything a single mother might encounter, from dating and remarriage issues to sections titled "When Daddy's Dead" and "When Daddy's in Jail."

There are basically no models for how to cope people don't even want to talk about it," says the 37-year-old broadcaster.

"The stereotypes about single mothers hit at home," she adds. "Everyone wants to tell you what to do to get married, or just get a man. You really can't blame the women when they make bad choices. They're just doing what society is pushing them to do." Accordingly, Williams' book encourages single mothers to shun off social stigma and focus on raising their children the best way possible, including what may be the most difficult piece of advice to swallow.

Williams says, single mothers should let their kids have a relationship with their fathers—no matter how much the mother may hate him.



"Single Mamahood" gives advice on how you can raise children who are self-assured, happy and healthy.

Williams' friends, family and her own life are used to illustrate nearly every point the book provides. Conceived more than five years ago, the book remained a collection of notes until Williams snagged a contract with New York-based Carol Publishing in 1996 and cranked it out last year while still working full time at WTSP.

But one recent development cropped up too quickly for inclusion.

Encouraged by the summers he spends with his dad, Winston has decided he wants to move to New York City and live with him full time. Williams, who has worked hard to help her son stay close to Teddy despite the distance, says she supports the move—expecting to leave her job at WTSP and follow him up North soon after. "I think maybe it's time to let him go," she says, shrugging off any concerns she might feel abandoned in the transition. "My desire to have Winston be really well-adjusted supersedes any selfish need I might have."

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Tracing your loved one on the family tree

By Courtney L. Cannon-Scott

There are several types of family tree chart designs on which you can document your family history. The first type is a basic family tree which lists several generations of your direct family line: yourself, parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Brothers and sisters can also be listed. This type of tree is just a summary of information and will often include dates of birth, marriage, and death besides the name.

With each generation, you double your ancestors. You have two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, 16 great-grandparents, and so on. If, for instance, a generation averaged about 30 years, by the time you traced your family back to 1607 (when Jamestown was founded), you would have 8,190 total ancestors.

Imagine how difficult a task the griot (historian) has in remembering all the ancestors in a family and their history! So, it is very important to be accurate and keep good records.

A second type of family tree chart is called a collateral chart. This style of chart includes your relatives, such as aunts, uncles, and cousins. It will not look as neat as the basic

chart explained first, but will be a more complete representation of your family. As you list each family member on the chart, also complete an index card for them that will identify them further. Some of the information you could list on the index card is name, birthdate, birthplace, residence locations and dates, education, occupation(s), marital history, name changes, children, church, or political affiliation, military service, date of death and cause.

A third, and most important type of family tree chart is the family medical tree chart. This type of chart is sometimes also called a geneogram. Similar genetic patterns are found in one family and by reviewing the family medical history, the quality of life of current family members could be improved. Every family should keep a complete, up-to-date set of medical records. The best defense against inherited diseases is a thorough knowledge of the family medical history. Once the medical history is compiled, share it with your doctor to ensure timely and proper follow-up. If you are unable to obtain the necessary information from family members, consider using death certificates.

A family tree is an important tool in the preservation of family history. Do not rely on word of mouth to pass on vital information, record it in permanent form. This could be on paper or computer disc. By doing this, you can accurately pass on important information to future generations. Your questions, comments or suggestions are welcome. All queries will be answered. For a basic family tree chart, send \$1 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Courtney L. Cannon-Scott, c/o "Back in the Day, P.P. Box 162516, Atlanta, Georgia, 30321-2516.

Fishing: a fun, summer activity the small fry can enjoy

STURTEVANT, Wis.—According to the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), more than 90 percent of today's anglers started fishing before they turned 18. Furthermore, the trade association's researchers say that a boy or girl isn't introduced to fishing by the time he or she is 13, the chances are good that they'll never take up the sport.

And that would be a shame, because fishing offers a lifetime of fun that can impart and enhance values such as sportsmanship, love and concern for the outdoors, responsibility, relaxation, being with friends and family, and as many anglers know, patience. Besides, if you haven't seen the face of a four-year-old catching his or her first bluegill, then you don't know what pure, unadul-

terated sunshine is.

So this summer, why not introduce your child, a nephew or niece, your grandchild, your scout troop or the neighborhood kids to fishing?

As for how to introduce your child to fishing, keep three things in mind, says Sam Heaton, field promotions manager for Johnson Worldwide Associates (JWA). First, "he says, you need to simply spend some old-fashioned time with your kids. And that might mean coming home from ice early or cutting the Saturday morning golf game. Second, fishing is supposed to be fun, so don't be concerned about the techniques of fishing or the values that can be gained by fishing, these will come later if your child wants to learn more about fishing.

Heaton says there are very few

things that can match the joy of watching a child catch a fish. He knows what he talks about. Grandfather to Austin, age 5, Heaton thinks fishing is a great way to connect and bond with a child.

"That's because you have to talk and play with your kids," he says.

And it's easy too. For less than \$15, you can purchase your child a simple rod and reel combination, a couple bobbers, a few hooks, some sinkers, and within no time at all, go fishing. As for bait, a can of corn kernels or some of the worms from your backyard garden will do just fine.

Making fishing fun for kids

—Have fun. Don't worry about technique and don't be concerned about catching lots of big, trophy-size fish. For a young angler, a small bluegill or crapp-

ie caught with a simple hook and bobber is a major achievement. For some children, a big fish might be scary.

—Keep it simple. Don't make your fishing outing a big production. Kids can only take in so much information at any given time. The more complicated you make it, the more frustrated they'll get. You don't need fancy equipment. You don't need a boat, fishing from a pier, dock or shore will do just fine. Keep it simple. After all, your child just wants to spend time with you.

—Safety first. Whether it's a big river or a small neighborhood pond, water needs to be respected. Show your child how to stay safely around water, in a boat or on a dock. Use your fishing outfits to teach and rehearse what they should do if they get in trouble with water.

Don't get bothered by summer heat

FLORHAM PARK—Summer weather can cause the temperature inside a parked vehicle to reach levels that can be dangerous or even deadly to children and pets. "The temperature in a parked car can quickly soar to 200 degrees," said Jennifer Schneider, manager of public relations for the New Jersey Automobile Club.

"Don't leave children unattended in a car—not even for a short period of time."

Before entering a vehicle that has been exposed to high temperatures, Schneider recommends that motorists open the vehicle's doors and let the interior cool for a few minutes. A sun shield can be used to cover the windshield to minimize

heat build-up and to help protect the car's interior. Cover metal and plastic parts on seats belts and child safety seats to prevent burns.

Some motorists opt to leave a window partially open to keep their vehicle cool. This may be appropriate in some circumstances, but it could make your car a target for thieves.

A properly working air conditioning system also will help motorists keep their cars in summer heat. If needed, have the air conditioning serviced by a qualified technician, using the refrigerant R-12 in older systems or R-134A in new or modified air conditioners. And never use non approved substitute refrigerants.

Health Calendar

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a workshop on Biomedical/Medical Client Education, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for further information and registration, 906-233-8910.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

NEWARK—A free program, "Tips to Stay Healthy," sponsored by the Senior Health Network, will be offered at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The program will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. 973-926-6771.

'Ask Yourself' on June 27

HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILL.—For the first time ever, thousands of Americans nationwide will have an opportunity to discuss the often times sensitive subject surrounding HIV testing in support of National HIV Testing Day.

Home Access Health, the maker of Home Access Express® and Home Access, the only FDA approved and doctor recommended HIV at-home tests, will offer its professional telephone consultation service for people interested in how to discuss HIV testing with a sexual partner on Saturday, June 27—at no charge—for National HIV Testing Day.

This year's call to action entitled, "Ask Yourself" is based on new findings from a national survey that show people are somewhat hesitant to discuss HIV testing with partner, even though a vast majority of people would support a potential partner's request to get tested before entering a physical relationship.

People interested in receiving a free "Ask Yourself" medical consultation can call 1-800-HIV-TEST toll-free and speak to a trained professional throughout the entire day and evening.

Medical advice you can trust

Health and Healing for African-Americans
Edited by Sherree Crute Bantam Books

By g.e. mattox

When you get sick, the thing uppermost in your mind is how and when you will get well. African Americans suffer from a higher rate of serious illness and disease than almost any other group of Americans. While this serious statistic has been addressed in many different areas, and the book, *Health and Healing for African-Americans* approaches the problem and disseminates healing information in a comprehensive, but easy to read format.

The book alphabetically profiles the ailments that cause the most pain and suffering, and explains how symptoms can be spotted and treatment can be obtained.

Over 150 African American doctors and health experts have con-

tributed information to this book that has been developed by Prevention Magazine. Some of the contributors include Ruth Louise Hall, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at the College of New Jersey in Trenton; Richard M. Lynch, Ph.D., assistant professor of industrial hygiene in the Department of Urban Studies and Community Health at Rutgers University in New Brunswick; and Yvonne Thornton, MD, director of prenatal diagnostic testing at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, M.D. wrote in the introduction that self-care used to be a part of the African-American culture, but now it is fast becoming a lost art. In noting the wealth of information available about maintaining good health, she says, "These days, we have all kinds of talented doctors at our disposal, but many of us to this valuable health resources only as a last resort. Granted, no one wants to go to the doctor for no reason, but too

HEALTH HEALING FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS

HOME REMEDIES, TIME-TESTED STRATEGIES AND PREVENTION TIPS TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY HEALTHY AND HAPPY
PREPARED BY HEALING TRUST
EDITED BY SHARREE CRUTE

many African-Americans have allowed emergency room care—or no care at all—to become commonplace in their lives."

This publication, a great resource for individual health care, not only arms the readers with pertinent wellness knowledge, but shows the health profession has progressed in the African-American community since James Deham, the first black physician, opened the doors of his practice in 1783.

Forum reveals bad state of black health

By George Wilson

According to the Federal Center of Disease Control and Prevention, the overall health of the African-American population has declined to alarming levels.

From 1980 to 1994, the number of diabetes cases rose 33 percent among African-Americans. The death rate for women with breast cancer fell 10 percent between 1990 and 1995. However, the rate for African-American women, which was already high, failed to change. Even though the nation is experiencing a drop in infant mortality, the African American rate is still double the national level.

There are a number of factors which contribute to these rather grisly figures. Among them: lifestyle, diet and the fear of visiting a physician. This decline in health occurs at the same time when the nation is grappling with how to provide adequate health care to the huge numbers who are either uninsured and under-insured.

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) health brain trust and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies held a forum on Capitol Hill to address this critical issue. A number of the nation's top health care administrators were joined by health practitioners and concerned citizens for the day-long session.

Congressman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) has been relentless in advocating for the health of African-Americans. In fact, the idea of holding health brain trusts is the brainchild of Rep. Stokes. When Stokes retires at the end of this Congress, his shoes will be virtually impossible to fill.

The current debate over health care focuses on controlling cost while providing quality service. It shouldn't surprise anyone to note that those without the financial means don't get the same care as those who have money.

Dr. Darrell Gaskins of Georgetown University's Institute of Health Care Research, is also a health economist. He says, "There is a significant number of African-Americans who are uninsured. The movement toward the managed care industry has not addressed any of their issues. In fact, it hurts the providers who have traditionally provided care, while the federal and state government are moving to enroll people in managed care, they have left out a lot of people who have no insurance at all."

He also noted that a lot of African-Americans and minority populations that are being moved into managed care are either being moved through the Medicaid system, or are being forced to choose a plan because their employer has opted not to offer conventional insurance.

The question of quality and access is deadly serious. Consider a recent survey done by the Cleveland Plain Dealer. According to the survey, Black men are dying at a rate three times higher than White men.

Black women from 35 to 64 are dying from treatable diseases at twice the rate of White women. The inability to see a physician or to get less than adequate care can only worsen these figures.

Praise for child abuse conference

ELIZABETH—Union County Freeholder Lewis Mingo, Jr., of Plainfield traveled to New Brunswick recently to present a resolution in recognition of the strides being made in child abuse prevention, during "Families 2000 Child Abuse Prevention Conference," held at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center and sponsored by the Planning Committee for Union & Middlesex Counties. Freeholder Mingo made the presentation to Robert Sabreen, Regional Administrator for DYFS Metropolitan Region.

Freeholder Mingo said, "As the liaison to Union Counties Human Services Advisory Board that deals with this problem, I am especially concerned that everything possible be done to stem the tide of child abuse in our county."

Mingo added, "It is clear to me that only by marshaling the joint cooperation of the public and private sectors can we best achieve the desired results." He noted that upon assuming office in January one of his key concerns has



Union County Freeholder Lewis Mingo, Jr. left, of Plainfield presented a proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention to Robert Sabreen, Regional Administrator for DYFS Metropolitan Region during the recent Families 2000 Conference.

been to improve the quality of life and provide more opportunities for the young people in Union County.

U.S. blacks wait longer for kidney transplants

By Laura Meckler
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—American blacks wait longer for kidney transplants than whites, and the disparity has grown over the last few years, government inspectors reported recently.

White patients waited an average of a year and eight months for a transplant in 1994, while black patients waited more than three years, according to a report by the Inspector general to the Department of Health and Human Services.

As the number of patients has grown much faster than the number of donors, the waiting time has increased for all patients. But between 1988 and 1994, the wait for kidneys increased 78 percent for whites and 98 percent for blacks.

Two years ago 35.6 percent of

people waiting for kidney transplants were black, but just 12 percent of donors were, making matches more difficult, she said. Also, for reasons not understood by scientists, when final test are done before kidney transplant operations take place—after original matching efforts have been made—blacks are more likely than whites to be found incompatible with donor kidneys.

She noted that similar disparities do not exist for heart, lung or liver transplants.

A study in the journal Medical Care published in March blamed financial barriers as well as medical factors for the racial disparities in kidney transplants.

The Inspector general said the transplant network has worked to even out waiting times, giving greater weight to how long a patient has been waiting than it use to.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

JERSEY CITY — The New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Jersey City Museum presents a "Yellow" Exhibition: 1960 and 1997 through September 19. Event will be held at the museum from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 201-547-4514.

NEW YORK — Lincoln Center's fountain plaza has a five-week series of bands playing big band jazz and swing, jump blues and salsa. For more information, call 212-875-5000.

MONTCLAIR — "Triplets: The Diva Musical" featuring Ruth Brown, Carol Woods and Angela Robinson, presented at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium. The show will run through July 12. For more information, call 973-655-5112.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

NEWARK — Al Jarreau will perform with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For more info, call 1-800-255-5476.

HOBOKEN — The film "Good Will Hunting" will be shown at the Erie Lackawanna Plaza 9 p.m. Showing is free to the public. For more info, call 201-420-2207.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

NEWARK — The Newark Museum Garden Jazz Concerts presents the Geary Moore Quartet featuring Lady Ono at 12:15 p.m. For more information, call 973-596-6550.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

NEW YORK — The El Gran Combo, Puerto Rico's legendary orchestra will perform at the Lincoln Center for the first time. For more information, call 212-875-5766.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

NEW YORK — Trumpeter Kermit Ruffins performs with Wanda Rouzan as part of the New Orleans Deep Drop Inn show. Showtime is 8:15 p.m. For more info, call 212-875-7766.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

NEW ORLEANS — Essence will hold its fourth annual Essence Music Festival through July 5. Showcases will feature Maxwell, Erykah Badu, Anita Baker, and more. For more information, call 1-800-488-6282.

Works of Gordon Parks on display at the Museum of the City of New York

NEW YORK—Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks, the first complete exhibition of the works of renowned American artist Gordon Parks opens at the Museum of the City of New York on July 1 and runs through November 1, 1998. Organized by the American Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., and co-curated by Philip Brookman, curator of photography and media arts at the Corcoran, and Deborah Willis, collections coordinator at the Center for African-American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, this retrospective brings together for the first time Parks's achievements as a filmmaker, novelist, poet, musician, photographer, and dedicated humanist.

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company and Time Warner Inc., Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks will be presented at fifteen venues as part of a national touring program. The exhibition features



Gordon Parks more than 200 photographs, with significant works from each of Parks's major series from 1940 through 1997, including color photographs, music, and poems. The result is, in the artist's words, a tone-poem that

impressionistically tells his own story.

The Museum of the City of New York is pleased to host this important survey of the work of Gordon Parks, whose numerous artistic achievements have included many New York based projects in fashion and documentary photography, as well as in film. He came to New York City in 1944 from Washington, D.C., to find work covering high fashion and, despite racist company policies prohibiting the employment of African Americans, he landed a job at Vogue magazine. During this time, however, Parks decided to concentrate mainly on documentary photography, having covered stories in Harlem for the office of War Information and the Standard Oil of New Jersey Photography.



Parks took these photographs during the height of his career.



By Asandra Hunter

Scoop Du Jour

After swapping mall talk with the Queen of Hip Hop/Soul, Mary J. Blige for the first time last year at a midtown Manhattan interviewing suite, I realized that she wasn't the nice little girl harboring an attitude that would make Leona Helmsley seem like a person who merely woke up on the wrong side of the bed. Instead, she's a friendly, funny and candid woman who has both good and bad days and good and bad sides just like everyone else on the planet. Today, I'm at Mix Impressions Studios talking with the singer about her new live album, "Live at the Blue Note," which is out next month on MCA and Mary J. is quite excited about the prospect of proving something very important to the world — that she can sing live!

CN: What songs will appear on the album? Only ones from the tour?

Mary: The production people took the songs directly from my live



Mary J. Blige shows and put them on the album. I recorded three new songs, Aretha Franklin's "Daydreaming," Dorothy Moore's "Mary-J's," and a remix of "Everyday It Rains." My cousin Jamario is on the remix keeping it up. It sounds good.

CN: Was it your decision to record those three new songs or was it

suggested by MCA's A & R department?

Mary: I picked those songs, because they're songs I loved. I just took it upon myself to go into the collection and pick out what I wanted to hear.

CN: The last time we spoke, you told me that you'd like to form your own label. Has doing the live album permitted you from working on the label you wanted to start?

Mary: No, it's still gonna happen. I have artists, like my friend Austin, who I've known since the second grade. We introduced him at my show at Madison Square.

CN: How does your family feel about seeing you on TV, at live shows and in magazines? Have they've grasped the fact that you're famous?

Mary: The fact has settled in and they're happy for me now. But they still don't quite understand me, that I was going to go through things.

I was a menace, a little problem child. So, I understand them being concerned, but as long as I'm not a murderer, the rest is nobody's business. My mother wanted me to finish school and go to church.

CN: Was your mother really religious?

Mary: Well, she went to church on Easter, but my grandparents were and my mother used to send me with them. I went every Sunday though. Going to church doesn't mean you're not going home tonight experiences. I wouldn't trade any of it for the world though, because it's gotten me where I am and it's taught me things. But I do wish that people could be straight with me. We forget to take it easy on each other, because we're too busy figuring out our own needs.

CN: This controversial film stars Dorothy Dandridge and white actor Curt Jurgens. Hosted by Wilma Grey, it is the story of a slave ship revolt and the interracial romance between the two lead characters. The guest speaker will be Donald Bogie, a noted film historian and author of "Dorothy Dandridge: A Biography."

Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson — July 22 (NIT)

This 1997 documentary explores the history of Black professional baseball in New Jersey during segregation. The film will be preceded by a panel discussion titled "Baseball is More Than a Game - Remembering the Negro Leagues." For more information regarding the Newark Film Festival, call 1-939-596-6550 or 1-800-7-MUSEUM.

Classic cinema on TCM



Filmmaker Oscar Micheaux.

NEW YORK—Wednesday nights this July, the Turner Classic Movies (TCM) cable network will salute the black independent film industry of the early 1900s with *A Separate Cinema*, a first-of-its-kind, five-day, 29-movie festival saluting directors and actors who established a successful underground film movement outside of Hollywood. *A Separate Cinema* launches on July 1 Oscar Micheaux's *The Symbol of the Uncon-*

quered (1920, 9 p.m. ET), featuring a newly composed score by jazz legend Max Roach.

The festival is highlighted by the premiere of the 1994 documentary *Midnight Rambles* (8 p.m.), chronicling the rise and fall of the race film genre, and prominent figures like Micheaux.

A Separate Cinema, hosted by Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, is the most extensive and in-depth festival of independent films in television history, ranging from one of the earliest surviving black films, Micheaux's *Within Our Gates* (1920, July 1, 9 p.m.), through lavish musicals of the late 1940s like *Boyz n the City* (1946, July 29, 5 a.m.) to films from independent white filmmakers such as *The Jackie Robinson Story* (1950, July 29, 8 p.m.), which marked the end of the race movie era. Each Wednesday night is dedicated to specific genre or figure-Micheaux (July 1), Paul Robeson and Herbert Jeffrey (July 8), Josephine Baker and Spencer Williams (July 15), Crime Stories (July 22), and Sports Films and Musicals (July 29).

AT THE MOVIES:



Eddie Murphy is the voice of Mulan, the mischievous dragon.

LOS ANGELES—Writer, comedian, Eddie Murphy lends his comic voice and mischievous spirit to the fast talking character, Mushu in the Walt Disney Pictures' full-length animated feature, "Mulan," which opened nationwide June 19.

Set in the vast and enchanting landscape of Mainland China, Walt Disney Pictures' "Mulan" brings to life one of China's most popular and enduring legends. The film chronicles the adventures of Mulan, a brave young woman who risks her life to spare that of her ailing father.



Murphy listens to a wise-cracking guinea pig in Dr. Dolittle.

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—Larry Ledford, Bergen News

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Project No. 970618 TContract No. 1

LEGAL NOTICE

BOONTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

CLASP CONTRACT NO. 1
UNDERGROUND UTILITY REPLACEMENT
AT
125 CHESTNUT STREET

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the Town of Boonton (hereinafter called the Authority), in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Administrative Office of the Authority, located at 125 Chestnut Street, Boonton, New Jersey, on July 14, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. following terms. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in bids and to reject any and all bids if it is in the best interest of the Authority to do so. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 30, 1998, at the Authority's Administrative Office at 125 Chestnut Street. Separate sealed bids for:

CONTRACT NO. 1 - Underground Utility Replacement at 125 Chestnut Street
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The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the Administrative Office of the Authority. Copies of the Contract Documents may also be obtained at said office upon payment by check or bank draft in the amount of \$75.00 payable to the "Boonton Housing Authority" for each set. "DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE MAILED. PAYMENT FOR DOCUMENTS IS NON-REFUNDABLE."

The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bond, written by a surety listed in the most recent Circular No. 570, United States Department of the Treasury, as the Authority may prescribe and with such sum as they may approve.

All Bidders must be authorized to do business in New Jersey. Any Bidder which is a corporation not chartered under the laws of the State of New Jersey, must submit an affidavit certifying that said corporation is authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 127 which pertains to "Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action," and Public Law 1977, c. 33 which requires a Statement of Corporate Ownership.

Sherry L. Sims
Executive Director
Boonton Housing Authority

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UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union that it hereby adopted Resolution No. 10-98 on January 4, 1998 which was amended by Resolution No. 44-98 on January 15, 1998; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby decided to amend Resolution No. 44-98 to revise the scheduled of regular meetings, which is attached hereto, and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10A-18; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said amended schedule of meetings be posted by the Clerk of the Board in the place or places usually reserved for such public notices, including the Clerk of the Board to the newspapers officially designated to receive such notices by the Board and filed by the Clerk of this Board with the Office of the County Clerk of Union County, all of the above to be accomplished within seven (7) days of the date of this Resolution in compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10A-18.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

1998 MEETING SCHEDULE
MOST MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THURSDAY EVENINGS. AGENDA SESSIONS BEGIN AT 6:30PM AND REGULAR PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 7:00PM. IN THE FREEHOLDERS MEETING ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ELIZABETHTOWN PLAZA, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

PERSONS REQUIRING A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SHOULD CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD AT (908)927-4140, OR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE FOR THE DEAF RELAY SERVICE (908)927-1232

AGENDA/WORK SESSIONS
6:30 a.m.

JUNE 4*
JUNE 18

JULY 9

AUGUST 13

SEPTEMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 17

OCTOBER 1
OCTOBER 15

NOVEMBER 5

DECEMBER 3
DECEMBER 17*

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETINGS
7:00 p.m.

JUNE 4*
JUNE 28

JULY 23

AUGUST 27

SEPTEMBER 10
SEPTEMBER 24

OCTOBER 8
OCTOBER 22

NOVEMBER 12

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Democrats attack money laundering

TRENTON (AP)—Assembly Democrats on Tuesday promoted a package of bills to enable New Jersey police agencies to begin monitoring for money laundering.

The seven-bill package would also expand racketeering crime laws to include money laundering, which means a person who helps distribute and move drug money would face as long as a prison sentence as the drug trafficker.

Assemblyman Neil Cohen, D-Union, sponsored many of the bills and held a news conference Tuesday to publicize them with two cosponsors, Assemblyman Peter Barnes, D-Middlesex, a retired FBI agent, and Assemblywoman Nia Gill, D-Essex, who is Cohen's law partner.

"Drug dealers, organized crime organizations and other criminals are literally dumping millions of dollars realized from criminal activity into New Jersey," Cohen claimed. Regarding the package of bills, Cohen said, "It sends an extremely strong message."

However, no Republican lawmakers have cosponsored the bills or joined the Democrats at the news conference. The Assembly and all of its committees are run by the GOP majority.

One bill would require banks and businesses to report to state authorities any cash transaction above \$10,000, or transactions totaling \$100,000 over 30 days. The Internal Revenue Service already has a \$10,000 reporting requirement often used by federal authorities to flag suspicious activities.

"New Jersey needs to take a more active role, especially in those areas where federal efforts are not being concentrated," Cohen said.

Gill cosponsored a bill to include money-laundering under the racketeering laws aimed at drug organizations—"kingpins," who face 30 years in prison without parole—the same as the "life" sentence for murderers.

Gill acknowledged this could lead to a scenario in which a drug trafficker caught with \$100,000 worth of cocaine would serve less time in prison than an offender who got caught with the \$100,000 in cash the trafficker gave him to launder.

"This legislation deals with the profit factor," Gill said.

Workers sue Goodyear for race bias

By Jeffrey Gold
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK (AP)—Black workers who say they were harassed with racial slurs and assigned hard work are suing the all-white management of a Goodyear tire warehouse for \$1.24 million.

The workers said recently that about at the warehouse run by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Inc. were on despite grievances filed with their union and complaints to the state Division of Civil Rights.

The workers sued Goodyear and some of the managers at its North Brunswick warehouse, alleging discrimination and a hostile workplace.

About a dozen workers, including three men who have worked there for more than two decades, assert that no black worker has ever been promoted to a supervisory post and that blacks are punished for infractions that bring no sanctions against whites.

All workers at the warehouse will lose their jobs in about a year because Goodyear is consolidating several depots at a new, non-union facility it is building in York, Pa., Sinclair said.

The North Brunswick warehouse's 47 hourly workers and 14 salaried employees are being offered severance packages but not jobs, he said. The lawsuit said about one-third of the hourly workers are black.

Supervisors repeatedly called black workers "nigger," according to the lawsuit, filed Monday in state Superior Court.

Mostly blacks were assigned to unload rail cars, a strenuous task done outdoors. It typically took one man all day to move—one by one—an average of 2,500 tires onto pallets, said Cornell Ross, one of the plaintiffs.

When supervisors ordered black workers to the rail car, they told them to "report to the plantation," said Ross, 33, of New Brunswick.

When black workers questioned why few whites had to unload the rail cars, a supervisor replied, "We know you big black backs can get it done," according to the lawsuit.

Although several black workers now work under supervisors they trained when the whites were employed, they say blacks were never promoted.

By Ralph Siegel
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP)—The state Supreme Court rules that past threats of violence are good enough for a fearful wife to get a restraining order against her husband.

The unanimous ruling, written by Justice Marie Garibaldi, aims to make it clear the courts regard New Jersey's Prevention of Domestic Violence Act to be broad in giving court-ordered protection even when threats seem indirect.

The case involved a Branchburg couple, Richard and Kathleen Cesca, who were in the midst of a divorce

after a stormy marriage that included arguments peppered with death threats.

Mrs. Cesca said her husband had once threatened to kill her by tying her to railroad tracks or by using a gas explosion he would rig to look like an accident. She took no legal steps in response to the threats.

Then, in July 1996, she told police she had an argument with her husband concerning the custody of their three children and the proceeds from selling their house. During the arguments, Mrs. Cesca claimed her husband said to her, "As I've told you before, I do have a choice, and you will not get either of these."

Mrs. Cesca said this comment caused her to fear for her life. She received a restraining order from a Superior Court judge ordering Cesca to leave the house and to keep away from his wife.

Cesca appealed, saying he had said nothing specific to give his wife cause to believe she was in danger. A state appellate court ruled in his favor, saying the restraining order was unfounded and excessive.

The appeals court warned that in a nasty divorce, courts should not permit past remarks to be used "like the sword of Damocles" as weapons against one another.

The unanimous Supreme Court

reversed the appeals court and said the restraining order should have been affirmed even though no specific threat had been uttered in the July 1996 argument. Garibaldi said prior dangerous remarks were adequate to warrant protection.

"The trial court noted that the words used by defendant that night did not, by plaintiff's own admission, contain an explicit threat to kill," Garibaldi said. But she added, "Plaintiff's testimony revealed a background of improper conduct."

Garibaldi said the appeals court would be correct if Cesca's vague remarks about having a choice were made without a context of past death

threats. However, Garibaldi said the local judge had been correct in taking the past threats into account, and the appeals court should have honored the judge's discretion.

Garibaldi included social observations to buttress her ruling, noting, "The domestic violence epidemic has also hit New Jersey. In 1993, 66,000 cases of domestic violence were reported, a 27-percent increase over 1992. In 1996, 85,018 domestic violence offenses were reported in New Jersey."

"Until recently, however, the law in New Jersey did not take seriously the plight of abused and battered women," Garibaldi wrote.

Questions loom over education costs

By Barbara Fitzgerald
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP)—Run by the ink barely dry on a state Supreme Court decision that entrusted the state to come up with money for buildings and programs for poor students, a potential legal conflict is already simmering that could send the decade-old case back to court.

The state Department of Education has proposed standards for constructing or renovating school buildings—specifying what kinds of classrooms the facilities should contain, and how many. If school districts want to go beyond the standards—by building separate art, science or music rooms, for example—it is suggested that local taxpayers would have to pay for them.

Problem is, the state Supreme Court specifically stated that the 26 designated "special needs" districts have a right, based on their individual needs, to demand more than the minimum standards. The ruling says that the state ought to "provide the necessary funds whenever such need is demonstrated."

Advocates for the disadvantaged students in those districts say the language recognizing that right ought to be written into any forthcoming legislation on how the state will pay for school building construction and renovation.

Lawmakers are now in the process of drafting a bill.

If language protecting the rights of special needs districts is not in the law, said David Sciarra, executive director of the Education Law Center, which represented poor children in the Abbott vs. Burke school funding lawsuit, then "that's going to be a major problem."

Sciarra said he intends to meet with lawmakers in coming weeks to convince them to include such language.

It is, after all, lawmakers who will make the final determination on whether the special needs districts actually get additional funds.

The court order requires the special needs schools to demonstrate their need for additional, specialized spaces and further directs the education commissioner to seek money to pay for them, but it does not guarantee lawmakers will actually open the checkbook and honor

those requests.

It is also not certain that lawmakers will want to include such special language for the disadvantaged districts in their bill, when it does not intend to offer that same financial flexibility to rural, middle-income and wealthier school districts.

Allowing all districts in New Jersey to come forward and seek additional money for facilities beyond the minimum standards could cause the cost for facilities construction to skyrocket.

Already the cost for construction in the special needs districts is pegged at about \$1.8 billion. No reliable estimates are available for the cost of construction in other districts, but it's certain to add millions to the price tag.

Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz said the special language for the special needs districts could be included either in legislation or in a department regulation to be adopted at a later date.

"That's a question way down the

road," Klagholz said. "To the extent that the court says there should be exceptions, there will be exceptions, but we need to find the best way to do it. Whether it has to be in the statute is not nearly as important as whether we do it."

Sciarra said if additional money is not loosened up for the special needs districts, the matter will likely head back to court.

Individual schools or districts can make a case to Klagholz that they need more money. If Klagholz turns them down, they can then appeal to the Board of Education. If the board turns them down, they can head to an appeals court.

But what if Klagholz approves the request for more money, but the Legislature does not agree the funding is necessary?

Sciarra said that there always exists the potential for the districts to make a direct petition to the state Supreme Court, arguing that its order was not being followed.

Bell Atlantic provides faster links to Internet

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bell Atlantic Corp. will provide some of its telephone customers with high-speed links to the Internet, becoming the latest phone company to join the race against cable TV companies to provide such access.

Like other phone companies, Bell Atlantic said Wednesday that it will offer some customers Internet access over existing copper telephone lines using ADSL—asymmetric digital subscriber line technology. It offers speeds 250 times faster than the typical desktop computer modems of 28.8 kilobits per second hooked to regular telephone lines.

The service will be available to customers in the Washington, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia metropolitan areas in May and June. And, it will be available to customers in New Jersey's Hudson River area in October. The New York City and Boston areas will get the service in late 1998.

People using the technology would be able to use their computer and talk on the phone at the same time, said Bell Atlantic spokesman

Larry Plumb.

The high-speed line combined with unlimited Internet access ranges in price from \$69.95 a month for a speed of 640 kilobits per second to \$189.95 a month for the fastest speed of 7.1 megabits per second.

For just the high-speed wire without the Internet access, Bell Atlantic offers packages ranging from \$39.95 a month for a speed of 640 kilobits per second to \$109.95 a month for the 7.1 megabits per second speed. Transmitting the contents of one encyclopedia using a 28.8 modem over a regular phone line would take 37 minutes, Plumb said. Using an ADSL line with a speed of 640 kilobits per second, it would take two minutes; and at the speed of 7.1 megabits per second, it would take 14 seconds to transmit, he said. GTE Corp. and the nation's four other regional Bell telephone companies also plan to offer customer high-speed Internet links via the ADSL technology. Companies include Tele-Comm-unications, Inc. and Time Warner.

Cole new Montclair State Univ. President

MONTCLAIR (AP)—Montclair State University named Susan A. Cole, president of Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, as its new president.

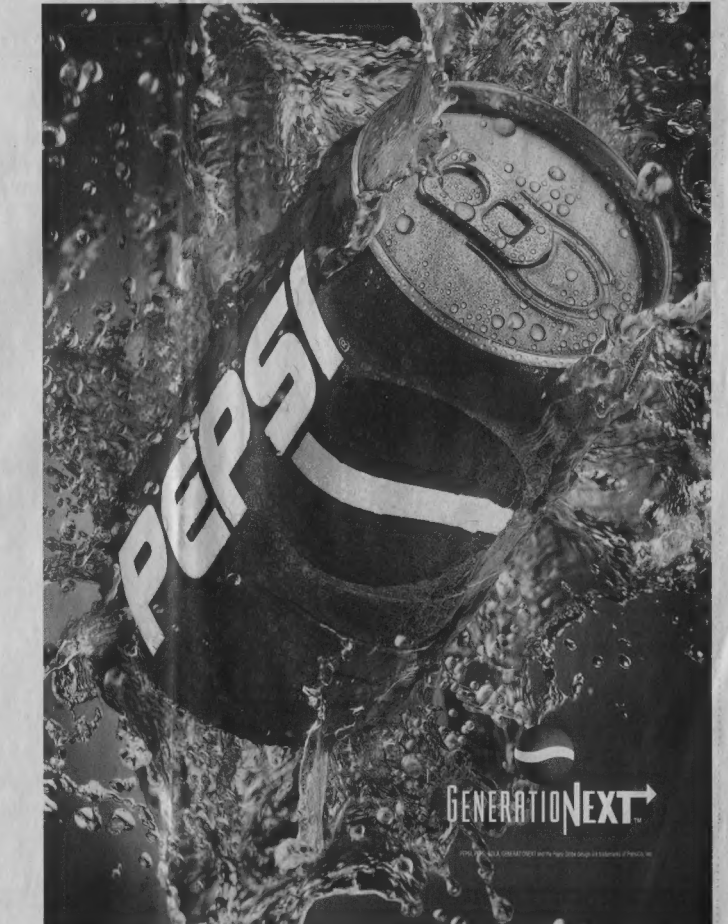
Cole has been president of Metropolitan State since 1993. From 1980 to 1992, she was a vice president at Rutgers University, and has also held administrative posts at Antioch University and the City University of New York.

She is expected to start at the 13,000-student university on Sept. 1.

"We are tremendously excited that an educational visionary and dynamic leader of the caliber of Dr. Cole will be Montclair State's next president," said Marjorie L. Cole, chair of the University's Board of Trustees.

Cole, an English professor, helped develop 22 new baccalaureate degrees and seven master's programs at Metropolitan State, an urban campus of the Minnesota State University system.

At Rutgers, Cole was vice president for university administration and personnel. She served as an associate university dean for academic affairs at Antioch. From 1991 to 1993, she was a Visiting Senior Fellow in academic administration at City University of New York, where she started her career in 1968.



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